

13-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A self-ballasted fluorescent lamp, as in claim 11, wherein:

the U-shaped bent bulbs of the arc tube are arranged in such a manner that the cross sections of the U-shaped bent bulbs give the appearance of a triangle;

a distance w_1 between the two straight portions of each U-shaped bent bulb is so set as to be nearly identical to a distance w_2 between each straight portion of each U-shaped bent bulb that is adjacent to said straight portion;

said distances w_1 , w_2 are respectively limited in the range from about 1mm to about 5mm;

said lighting circuit includes a half-bridge type inverter main circuit having at least a pair of transistors consisting of an N-channel transistor and a P-channel transistor, which are connected in series with each other to an input power supply and serve as the main switching element for generating a high frequency voltage;

said lighting circuit further including a ballast choke connected to the main inverter main circuit so as to light the arc tube in stable conditions; and

said lighting circuit further including a control means which has a secondary winding magnetically connected to the ballast choke and shared by the N-channel transistor and the P-channel transistor so that the control means serves to control the transistors by means of the secondary winding.

27. (Previously Presented) A luminaire including a self-ballasted fluorescent lamp as claimed in claim 11.